check this menace and what assistance has been provided to the State Governments in meeting this threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) India, lying as it does in a strategic position on the Asian Sub-Continent, juxtaosed between the 'Golden Triangle' and the 'Golden Crescent' is increasingly being exploited by drug traffickers as a transit route. The spill-over of drugs from such traffic has caused drug addiction, especially in the entry and exit points of Delhi and Bombay. This has also been indicated by the International Narcotics Control Board, in its annual reports, Government have, however, not received any reports from any expert regarding "induction of deadly drugs" into the country "by external forces which want to destabilise India"

Government have initiated various aggressive counter-measures against drug trafficking which *inter alia*, include strengthening of the preventive and intelligence machinery, specially along the international borders, adoption of a liberalised reward scheme for officers and informers, strengthening of bilateral co-operation between neighbouring countries (including regional co-operation under the aegis of SAARC). Special narcotics cells have been created in all the Customs and Central Excise Collectorates all over the country as well as in the State police organisations.

Further, the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Ordinance has been promulgated by the President on 4-7-1988. Under this Ordinance, 144 detention orders have been issued and 111 persons have been detained as on 27-7-1988, thus immobilising them from indulging in illicit traffic in drugs.

The States have already been directed to be vigilant and take necessary remedial measures against the threat posed by drug pushers, especially in the vicinity of schools, educational institutions, etc. The expenditure incurred by the State Government on payment of rewards to their officers and informers are also reimbursable by the Central Government. The States have also been requested to set up Special Courts for trial of drug related offences exclusively.

Fire in Vishal Bhawan, Nehru Place

784. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that devastating fire broke out twice within five days in Vishal Bhawan in Nehru Place complex built by DDA causing intensive loss;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the result of the inquiry made into the fire incidents;

(c) what action has been taken by Government to ensure that all the high rise buildings including Government buildings in the Capital are provided with adequate fire-fighting equipments within a reasonable period to meet the situation; and

(d) what action has been taken/proposed to be taken by Government against non-compliance of the rules/directives in this regard and to fix responsibility for the laxity in the implementation of the rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A medium category fire incident occured on 16 June, 1988 in Vishal Bhawan building, 95, Nehru Place, involving office premises on the 8th floor. A serious fire incident also occurred on 21 June, 1988 in the same building involving shops at ground floor, commercial area on part of first floor and elevators. No enquiry has been ordered into the fire incidents. Police authorities have sealed the building under the Delhi Police Act. The Chief Fire Officer has also issued orders that the building will remain sealed in the interest of public safety, till such time the inbuilt fire protection arrangements are installed.

(c) and (d) The owners/occupiers of the high-rise buildings were directed to provided necessary fire safety requirements within a period of 3 months. After expiry of the notice period, a fresh survey was conducted with a view to ascertain the compliance with the notices. It has been found that in 171 high-rise buildings, these requirements have not been fully complied with. Requests are being received from the building owners for grant of extension of time to complete all inbuilt fire safety measures. Notices have been issued by the Chief Fire Officer to all the builders/ owners to submit their action plans of the buildings within 30 days.

Unearthing of unaccounted money of mafia gangs in Dhanbad

785. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED KHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the income-tax authorities have recently unearthed arms and ammunition, unaccounted money and other incriminating documents during raids conducted at the residential and office premises of 'mafia' gangs in the Dhanbad coal-belt area of Bihar;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken against the economic offenders.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Income-tax department, in co-ordination with the Central Bureau of Economic Intelligence and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, conducted searches at Dhanbad, Patna, Balia; Chhapra, Calcutta and New Delhi on 9-6-88, in the cases of certain leaders of the 'Coal Mafia'. During these searches, altogether 26 premises were covered and 496 officials, besides personnel of Central Reserve Police and Border Security Force, were involved.

During these searches, *prima-facie* unaccounted assets such as cash, jewellery and other amounting to more than Rs. 46.95 lakhs were seized, besides a large number of incriminating documents indicating tax evasion.

During the course of the searches, concealment of income to the tune of Rs. 60 lakhs was admitted in a statement by one of the persons searched. Prohibitory order restraining operation were issued in respect of 140 bank accounts relating to the persons searched. Also, 14 unlicensed fire arms and 683 live cartridges were recovered and five persons were arrested for violation of the Arms Act.

(c) Appropriate action under the Direct Tax Acts is taken in all the cases.

Spy gang busted in Punjab

786. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
DR. ABRAR AHMED KHAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a spy gang has recently been busted in Punjab in which some CID and army personnel were involved; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?